UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2622	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
12/07/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/811,840	SASAKI, GEN
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Albert H. Cutler	2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>04 October 2007</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-18</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) <u>3-11</u> is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1,2 and 12-18</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☑ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☑ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☑ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This office action is responsive to communication filed on October 4, 2007.

Amended claims 1 and 2, as well as newly submitted claims 12-18 are pending in the

application.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 2 have been considered but

are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4.   Claims 1, 2 and 12-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated

by Anderson(US 6,847,388).

Consider claim 1, Anderson teaches:

An image processing apparatus for performing image processing on captured

data of an image of a desired subject(see figures 3 and 7), comprising:

an image processing part(612, 614 and 536, figure 7) including:

a buffer memory(536, figure 7, figure 4B) for data storage(The buffer

memory(536) stores frames of image data, column 5, lines 64-65.);

an image processing unit(612) for performing a predetermined process on said

captured data to obtain image data(column 6, lines 19-28), and writing said image data

to said buffer memory(536, column 6, lines 28-29);

and a compression unit(614) for compressing said image data read from said

buffer memory(536, column 9, lines 28-40), wherein

said buffer memory(536) is connected to receive only said image data from said

image processing unit(See figure 4B, column 6, lines 4-14. Images are read from input

buffer 538, processed, and transferred to frame buffer 536.); and

a storage unit(removable memory, 354) provided outside said image processing

part(See figures 3 and 7. The CPU(344) performs the image processing, column 6,

lines 12-14.).

Consider claim 2, and as applied to claim 1 above, Anderson further teaches:

wherein said buffer memory(536, figure 4B) includes a first buffer

memory("Frame Buffer A") and a second buffer memory("Frame Buffer B"), said image

processing apparatus(figures 3 and 7) further comprising:

a control unit(CPU, 344) being operative in such a manner that while said image

processing unit writes said image data either to said first buffer memory("Frame Buffer

A") or to said second buffer memory("Frame Buffer B"), said compression unit(614)

selectively reads image data previously stored either in said first buffer memory or in

said second buffer memory experiencing no writing of said image data by said image

processing unit(Buffer 536 is a ping-pong buffer(column 5, line 65 through column 6,

line 3). A characteristic of a ping-pong buffer is that while a first buffer memory is being

written to, a second buffer memory is being read out, and vice versa. See column 6,

lines 47-56. Column 9, lines 28-30 detail the readout from the ping-pong frame buffer

by the compression engine.).

Consider claim 12, and as applied to claim 1 above, Anderson further teaches:

said buffer memory(536) having an input and an output(column 6, lines 47-56),

said input connected to receive only said image data from said image processing

unit(See figure 4B, column 6, lines 4-14. Images are read from input buffer 538,

processed, and transferred to frame buffer 536.) and said output connected to output

said image data only to said compression unit(614, see figure 7, column 9, lines 28-30.

As only image data is stored in the buffer memory(536), only image data is output to

said compression unit(614).).

Consider claim 13, and as applied to claim 1 above, Anderson further teaches:

a first switching unit connected between said image processing unit and said

buffer memory(536, figure 4B, column 6, lines 47-56) and a second switching unit

connected between said compression unit and said buffer memory(See column 9, lines

28-30. Buffer 536 is a ping-pong buffer(column 5, line 65 through column 6, line 3). A

characteristic of a ping-pong buffer is that while a first buffer memory is being written to,

a second buffer memory is being read out, and vice versa. See column 6, lines 47-56.

This would require a switching unit on both the input and the output.).

Consider claim 14, and as applied to claim 13 above, Anderson further teaches

that said buffer memory(536) comprises first and second buffer memories("Frame

Buffer A" and "Frame Buffer B") connected in parallel(see figure 4B).

Consider claim 15, Anderson teaches:

An image processing apparatus for performing image processing on captured

data of an image of a desired subject(see figures 3 and 7), comprising:

an image processing part(612, 614, 622 and 536, figure 7), including:

first and second buffer memories("Frame Buffer A" and "Frame Buffer B")

connected in parallel(see figure 4B) for data storage(The buffer memories store frames

of image data, column 5, lines 64-65.);

an image processing unit(612) for performing a predetermined process on said

captured data to obtain image data(column 6, lines 19-28), and alternatingly writing said

image data to said first and second buffer memories(column 6, lines 47-56); and

a compression unit(614) for compressing said image data(column 9, lines 28-40)

alternatingly read from said first and second buffer memories(Buffer 536 is a ping-pong

buffer(column 5, line 65 through column 6, line 3). A characteristic of a ping-pong buffer

is that while a first buffer memory is being written to, a second buffer memory is being

read out, and vice versa(i.e. in an alternating fashion). See column 6, lines 47-56.

Column 9, lines 28-30 detail the readout from the ping-pong frame buffer by the

compression engine(614). The processed image data is aternatingly read from the

frame buffer(536) and displayed, column 6, lines 47-56. This same data is compressed

into screennail images, column 9, lines 17-26.).

Consider claim 16, and as applied to claim 15 above, Anderson further teaches:

a first switching unit connected between said image processing unit and said first

and second buffer memories(536, figure 4B, column 6, lines 47-56) and a second

switching unit connected between said compression unit and said first and second

buffer memories(See column 9, lines 28-30. Buffer 536 is a ping-pong buffer(column 5,

line 65 through column 6, line 3). A characteristic of a ping-pong buffer is that while a

first buffer memory is being written to, a second buffer memory is being read out, and

vice versa. See column 6, lines 47-56. This would require a switching unit on both the

input and the output.).

Consider claim 17, and as applied to claim 15 above, Anderson further teaches

that said first and second buffer memories(536) are connected to receive only said

image data from said image processing unit(See figure 4B, column 6, lines 4-14.

Images are read from input buffer 538, processed, and transferred to frame buffer 536.).

Consider claim 18, and as applied to claim 15 above, Anderson further teaches a storage unit(removable memory, 354) externally connected to said image processing part(622, figure 7, column 10, lines 25-35).

Conclusion

5.   The objection made to the title by the Examiner is hereby removed in view of Applicant's response.

6.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Albert H. Cutler whose telephone number is (571)-270-1460. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (7:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ngoc-Yen Vu can be reached on (571)-272-7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AC

NGOC-YEN VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER